FOTEDAR):(a) The Letter of Intent was transferred in favour of M/s. Bihar Sponge Iron Limited in March, 1986.

(b) Progress has been satisfactory and the plant is expected to commence production very shortly.

(c) There has not been undue delay in this project.

Sick Sugar Mills in the Country

1130. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any sick sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof;

(c) whether these sick sugar mills are incurring heavy losses;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to rehabilitate these units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (e) The sugar industry being a seasonal industry, subject to fluctuations due to a number of factors, the Department of food have not evolved parameters for quantifying sickness in the industry. However, 28 sugar factories did not work during 1988-89 season due to various reasons such as non-availability of sugarcane, financial and mangerial problems, labour troubles, etc. Financial assistance at concessional rate of interest for rehabilitation/ modernisation of uneconomic Sugar Units as well as for sugarcane development is made available from the Sugar Development Fund.

Concurrence for Exclusive order for Pesticides

1131. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought concurrence of the Central Government to issue an exclusive order - 'The pesticides' (Quality control) Order, 1988 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Central Government had accorded concurrence thereto and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Andhra Pradesh Government had sought concurrence of the Central Government to issue an exclusive Order, namely, the Andhra Pradesh Insecticide (Quality Control) Order, 1988 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The said Order, *inter alia*, provided for the following matters:

(i) Prohibition of sale or manufacture of insecticides without licences;
(ii) Prohibition of manufacture, sale, etc. of sub-standard insecticides; and
(iii) Sanction of prosecution.

(b) Since the matters, envisaged to be regulated by the proposed Special Order of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, are adequately covered under the Insecticides Act, 1968, the State Government has been advised that the issuance of the said Order would not serve much purpose.

Loss to NCCF on purchase of Arhar Whole with the connivance of Mahal Cooperative Society

1132. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1412 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7-8-87 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into this case has been completed and action taken